AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims which follows will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Amended) An external segment of a telescoping handle comprising:

a hole configured to receive a locking pin; and

a reinforcing mechanism sized and shaped to receive the locking pin and configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

2. (Original) The external segment of claim 1, wherein the hole is a circular hole and the reinforcing mechanism comprises an eyelet.

3. (Original) The external segment of claim 2, wherein the reinforcing mechanism further comprises a washer.

4. (Amended) The external segment of claim 1, further comprising an internal surface that comprises a recess surrounding the hole, and wherein the reinforcing mechanism resides flush with the internal surface of the [[tube]] external segment.

5. (Amended) The external segment of claim 1, further comprising an internal surface that comprises a recess surrounding the hole, and wherein the reinforcing mechanism resides below the internal surface of the [[tube]] external segment in a direction radially within the internal surface of the external segment.

6. (Original) The external segment of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises a height selected to aid the distribution of the forces imparted by the locking pin.

7. (Amended) The external segment of claim 1, wherein external segment is constructed using a first [[certain]] material, [[and wherein]] the reinforcing mechanism is constructed using a second material, and wherein the second material [[comprises a material that]] is stronger than the [[external segment material]] first material.

8. (Amended) The external segment of claim 7, wherein the [[external segment]] first material is aluminum.

9. (Amended) The external segment of claim 7, wherein the [[reinforcing mechanism]] second material is stainless steel.

10. (Original) The external segment of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of holes, and for each of the plurality of holes, a reinforcing mechanism configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

11. (Amended) A telescoping handle, comprising:

an inner segment, the inner segment comprising a locking pin; and

an external segment, the external segment comprising a hole configured to receive the locking pin, and a reinforcing mechanism sized and shaped to receive the locking pin and configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

12. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the hole is a circular hole and the reinforcing mechanism comprises an eyelet.

13. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 12, wherein the reinforcing mechanism further comprises a washer.

14. (Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the [[internal]] external segment further comprises an internal surface that comprises a recess surrounding the hole, and wherein the reinforcing mechanism resides flush with internal surface of the [[tube]] external segment.

15. (Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the external segment further comprises an internal surface that comprises a recess surrounding the hole, and wherein the reinforcing mechanism resides below the internal surface of the [[tube]] external segment in a direction radially within the internal surface of the external segment.

16. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises a height selected to aid the distribution of the forces imparted by the locking pin.

17. (Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the external segment is constructed using a [[certain]] first material, [[and wherein]] the reinforcing mechanism [[comprises a material that]] is constructed using a second material, and wherein the second material is stronger than the [[external segment]] first material.

18. (Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 17, wherein the [[external segment]] first material is aluminum.

19. (Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 17, wherein the [[reinforcing mechanism]] second material is stainless steel.

20. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the inner segment is configured to slide within the external segment between an extended position and a collapsed position.

21. (Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 20, wherein the locking pin is configured to engage the hole when the [[internal]] inner segment is in the extended position.

22. (Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 20, wherein the locking mechanism is configured to engage the hole when the [[internal mechanism]] inner segment is in the collapsed position.

23. (Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the external segment comprises a [[certain]] first material, and [[wherein]] the locking pin comprises a second material that is stronger than the [[external segment]] first material.

24. (Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 23, wherein the [[locking pin]] second material is stainless steel.

25. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, further comprising an engagement mechanism configured to allow the locking pin to be engaged with and disengaged from the hole.

26. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the external segment further comprises a plurality of holes, and for each of the plurality of holes, a reinforcing mechanism configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

27. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, further comprising a plurality of telescoping handles, each of the telescoping handles comprising:

an inner segment, the inner segment comprising a locking pin; and an external segment, the external segment comprising a hole configured to receive the locking pin, and a reinforcing mechanism configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

28. (Amended) A transporting device, comprising:

a telescoping handle, the telescoping handle comprising:

an inner segment, the inner segment comprising a locking pin; and

an external segment, the external segment comprising a hole configured to receive the locking pin, and a reinforcing mechanism sized and shaped to receive the locking pin and configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

29. (Original) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the hole is a circular hole and the reinforcing mechanism comprises an eyelet.

30. (Original) The transporting device of claim 29, wherein the reinforcing mechanism further comprises a washer.

31. (Amended) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the [[internal]] external segment further comprises an internal surface that comprises a recess surrounding the hole, and wherein the reinforcing mechanism resides flush with internal surface of the [[tube]] external segment.

32. (Amended) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the external segment further comprises an internal surface that comprises a recess surrounding the hole, and wherein the reinforcing mechanism resides below the internal surface of the [[tube]] external segment in a direction radially within the internal surface of the external segment.

33. (Original) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises a height selected to aid the distribution of the forces imparted by the locking pin.

34. (Amended) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the external segment is constructed using a [[certain]] first material, and wherein the reinforcing mechanism [[comprises a]] is constructed using a second material that is stronger than the [[external segment]] first material.

35. (Amended) The transporting device of claim 34, wherein the [[external segment]] first material is aluminum.

36. (Amended) The transporting device of claim 34, wherein the [[reinforcing mechanism]] second material is stainless steel.

37. (Original) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the inner segment is configured to slide within the external segment between an extended position and a collapsed position.

38. (Original) The transporting device of claim 37, wherein the locking pin is configured to engage the hole when the internal segment is in the extended position.

39. (Original) The transporting device of claim 37, wherein the locking mechanism is configured to engage the hole when the internal mechanism is in the collapsed position.

40. (Amended) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the external segment comprises a [[certain]] first material, and wherein the locking pin comprises [[a]] second material that is stronger than the [[external segment]] first material.

41. (Amended) The transporting device of claim 40, wherein the [locking pin] second material is stainless steel.

42. (Original) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the telescoping handle further comprises an engagement mechanism configured to allow the locking pin to be engaged with and disengaged from the hole.

43. (Original) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the external segment further comprises a plurality of holes, and for each of the plurality of holes, a reinforcing mechanism configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

44. (Original) The transporting device of claim 28, further comprising a plurality of telescoping handles, each of the telescoping handles comprising:

an inner segment, the inner segment comprising a locking pin; and

an external segment, the external segment comprising a hole configured to receive the locking pin, and a reinforcing mechanism configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.